

REMARKS

Claims 16, 24-27, 31, and 44-71 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 1-2, 22-23, and 72-73 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter disclosed therein. Based upon the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to claim 73. The Examiner further rejected claims 1-2, 22-23, and 72-73 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chan et al.* (USP 6,061,051) in view of *Flores et al.* (USP 6,310,988). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating claims 16, 24-27, 31, and 44-71 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled the rejected claims without conceding the propriety of the rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application. As the currently-pending claims have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

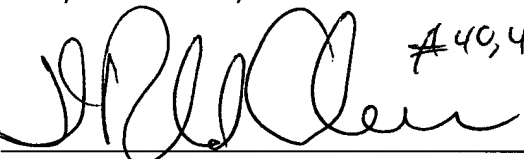
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the

telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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